

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-9, 13, 17-22; claims 12 and 24 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-12 and 14-23 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Information Disclosure Statement

The applicant has included a legible copy of cited foreign patent document, GB 1520420A in order to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claims are noted as containing subject matter which is not sufficiently described in the specification. The Applicant has amended the Detailed Description to clarify Figure 1. No new matter has been added. The amended portion discloses that the tuner (15) is fixably attached to the second part of the screw which prevents rotation of the tuner, a feature that would be well known by a person skilled in the art.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter as the invention. With regard to claims 1 and 13, the specification has been amended to replace the term “axis” with the term “axle”. The Applicant agrees with the Examiner that the axis cannot be threaded and has substituted the term axle as part of the motor (11), which is more descriptive of the claimed part, in the claims.

The antecedent basis problem in claims 8, 18 and 19 has been corrected and claims 12 and 24 have been canceled. The Applicant has corrected the deficiencies in claims 1-24 and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-24.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5, and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Newell USP (3,169,407). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims.

The Newell reference provides a large ball for rolling in a thread groove of a screw-threaded shaft; the ball being surrounded by and in point contact with smaller balls contained by an annular member (19) and a race (20). In a second embodiment the large ball is surrounded by smaller balls in an inner race and an outer race (a ball bearing). In both embodiments the large ball follows the groove in the threaded shaft and contacts the groove in two places. A hollow traveling nut is caused to rotate about the axis of the screw-threaded shaft without longitudinal movement along the shaft.

The Newell reference recites the use of balls and ball bearings. Smaller balls, contained by a race, provide rolling contact with the race, the large ball and the surface of the shaft while the large ball provides rolling contact inside the groove formed by the thread. The large ball appears to enable linear movement of the hollow traveling nut by rolling in the groove and the smaller balls allow for load bearing and rolling contact between the dished ball race and the surface of the shaft.

The Applicant respectfully submits that Newell discloses the use of balls, not semi-spheres as recited in claim 1 of the Applicant's application. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and respective depending claims 3, 5-8 and 11.

Claims 1-11, 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Naoi et al (US 3,987,680). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims.

The Applicant has reviewed the cited semi-spheres (22a, 23a) as noted in the argument on page six of the Detailed Action regarding claims 1 and 13. The Applicant respectfully notes that 22a is a one of a pair of cam grooves and the Examiner probably meant 23a and 23b. However, the cited references 23a and 23b are actually "A pair of balls 23a and 23b..." (col. 3, lines 25-30). Additionally, there is no reference in Naoi regarding anything less than a complete sphere/ball. Therefore Naoi, lacks the semi-spheres recited in claims 1 and 13 and the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 13 and the respective depending claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 12 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naoi et al (US 3,987,680) in view of Howie, Jr. (US 6,467,131). Claims 12 and 24 have been cancelled.

Prior Art Not Relied Upon

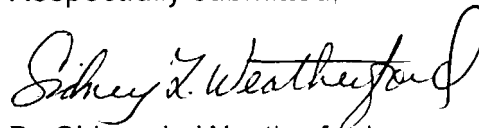
In paragraph 2 on page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sidney L. Weatherford", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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